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THE BEGINNING of the END...

CALIBUR

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30TH
ANNIVERSARY
1962 - 1992



THE AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN

JOAN DAVIS/FRANK FARENBERG (ARTIST: NEAL ADAMS)

THE POWERFUL CAPTAIN BRITAIN, THE SHAPE-CHANGING MEGGAN, THE INTANGIBLE SHADOWCAT, THE TELEPORTING NIGHTCRAWLER, THE MYSTERIOUS PHOENIX, THE EVER-UNPREDICTABLE WIDGET AND LOCKHEED THE DRAGON FORGED IN THE FIRES OF THEIR TRAGIC PASTS, THEY HAVE Banded TOGETHER TO FIGHT A MODERN DAY CRUSADE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL! STAN LEE PRESENTS... EXCALIBUR!

LET THERE BE DARK

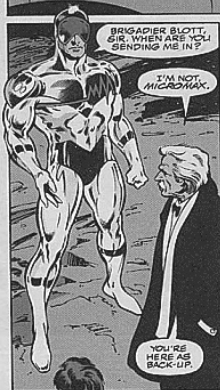
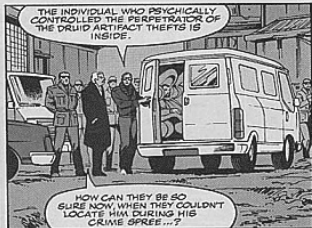
THE F.I.E. MEDIATORS ARE A SQUAD OF MILITARY EXPERTS DRAWN FROM THE ELITE OF BRITAIN'S ARMED FORCES.

WITH CLINICAL EFFICIENCY, THEY REGARD THESE DERELICT WAREHOUSES IN LONDON'S DOCKLAND AS A SET OF TACTICAL PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THEIR LATEST ASSIGNMENT...

...TO LOCATE AND APPREHEND A "TARGET"--OF UNKNOWN PARAHUMAN ABILITIES--AND DELIVER HIM TO THEIR LEADER...



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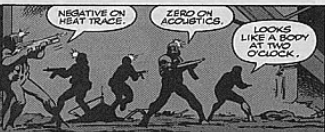
"...MY MEDIATORS WILL
GET THE JOB DONE."



NEGATIVE ON
HEAT TRACE.

ZERO ON
ACOUSTICS.

LOOKS
LIKE A BODY
AT TWO
O'CLOCK.



WE'VE GOT YOU
COVERED, ANDY,
TAKE A LOOK.

LOOKS OLD,
WITHERED--
DEFINITELY
DECEASED.



STRENGTH! ITS
CRUMBLING--

BECAUSE
IT'S MERELY
A HUG...



...I
DRAINED
ITS LIFE
FORCE...

...AS
I WILL
YOURS.



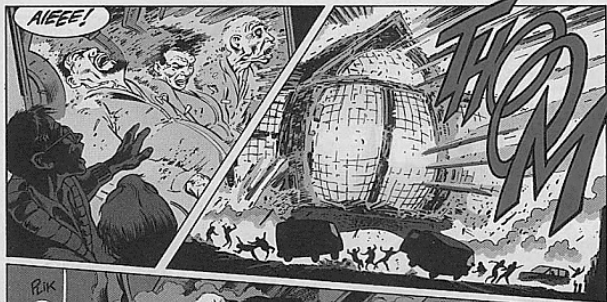
...7TH DAN KARATE
BLACK BELT, MAS-
TER AT ARMS, SIX
YEARS IN THE
MARINES, FOUR
IN THE S.A.S. ...

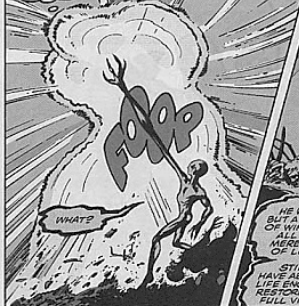


...BUT HE IS STILL MERELY
A MAN, SUDDENLY PAINFULLY
AWARE OF HIS OWN
MORTALITY.









MEANWHILE--APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY MILES NORTHWEST OF LONDON--AT THE EXCALIBUR LIGHTHOUSE...



NECROM IS COMING...

EASY, RACHEL.

HE SLAUGHTERED THE WHOLE F.I.G. UNIT-- I SAW IT IN MY MIND, KURT...

...HE WANTED ME TO SEE.

THE BLOOD OF HIS VICTIM IS ON YOUR HANDS. YOU COULD HAVE STOPPED NECROM FROM JOINING WITH THE POWER OF THE ANTI-PHOENIX.

HEY! YOU'VE NO RIGHT TO SAY THAT--

--ALL YOU'VE DONE SO FAR IS GET REB-CUED BY US.

PLEASE, THIS IS GETTING US NOWHERE.

I WAS PREPARED TO FIGHT TO THE DEATH--I ALONE POSSESS THE KNOWLEDGE TO DEFEAT THE ANTI-PHOENIX.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU SPEAK OF, BOY. NECROM BARELY ESCAPED MY SWORDS WHEN LAST WE FOUGHT.

AND KURT DEFEATED HIS SLAVE CREATURE.

THAT IS ALL IRRELEVANT NOW.

I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT'S IRRELEVANT, YOU LITTLE--

KATHERINE!

WE CANNOT AFFORD TO FIGHT AMONGST OURSELVES WHEN WE COULD BE...

...ATTACKED AT ANY MOMENT.

LOOKOUT!





WEIRD ONE? LEAST EXPECTED? HOW CAN YOU CAN BE SO CASUAL ABOUT A GIANT TRYING TO STOMP ON US?

THIS SORT OF THING HAPPENS ALL THE TIME, KYLIN-- THOUGH IT'S NOT USUALLY SO DRAMATIC--

--IT'S JUST A TEMPORARY BLURRING OF THE INTER-FACE BETWEEN REALITIES. A GLIMPSE OF WORLDS BEYOND.

THE FOURTH-DIMENSIONAL PULSE I DETECTED EARLIER IS INCREASING.

A 4D PULSE-- THAT'S TIME DISTORTION. I WONDER IF IT IS ANYTHING TO DO WITH WIDGET?

IF INDEED THIS IS WIDGET, ALISTAIRE.

WHATEVER IT IS APPEARS TO BE BENIGN.

NECROM, ON THE OTHER HAND, PRESENTS AN IMMEDIATE THREAT-- I PROPOSE WE DIVIDE OUR NUMBER AND PREPARE OUR STRATEGY.

I'D LIKE TO STAY DOWN HERE, ALL THESE ROBOT BODIES WIDGET MANUFACTURED ARE FASCINATING.

I TOO WILL REMAIN WITH WIDGET.

I OWE HIM MY LIFE.

HE WAS MY COMPANION WHEN I WAS ALONE --SO NOW, I WILL GIVE HIM WHAT LITTLE TIME IS LEFT BEFORE NECROM STRIKES.

VERY WELL. MEGGAN, PLEASE TAKE CERRIE WID FERON TO THE KITCHEN AND PREPARE A SNACK.

I WILL NOT--

SHUT UP, FERON! BRIAN, KITTY, RACHEL AND I WILL PREPARE A TACTIC FOR WHAT MAY BE THE BATTLE. EXCALIBUR WAS FORMED TO FIGHT.

LONDON...

WE'VE RECOVERED NINETEEN BODIES SO FAR, SIR--ALL SHRIVELED, DRIED OUT... THE FORENSICS BOYS ARE BAFFLED.

YOU ALERTED US TO THE SITUATION HERE A GOOD FIVE MINUTES BEFORE THAT EXPLOSION SHATTERED EVERY WINDOW IN A QUARTER-MILE RADIUS...

...WHAT'S THE STORY, DAI?

INKY'S F.I.6 CREW GOT THEMSELVES INTO SOMETHING BIG, PETER. I DON'T KNOW ANY SPECIFICS.

MISS WITHERSPOON JUST PICKED UP ON THE PSYCHIC RUMPLUS-- SHE'S CLAIRVOYANT.

MISS WITHERSPOON... HAVE YOU FOUND SOMETHING?

I CANNOT BE CERTAIN, COMMANDER THOMAS.

I SENSE A PRESENCE--VERY FAINT... TINY, SEMI-CONSCIOUS, STRUGGLING TO AWAKEN...

WEEEEERGH!

BY THE LORD HARRY!

YOU'RE MICROMAX, RIGHT...?

ONLY JUST... NECROM HAD ME TRAPPED... READY TO KILL ME... SHRANK TO ESCAPE...

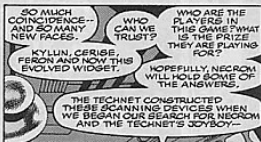
...STILL LEARNING TO USE MY POWER-- TO CONTROL MY SIZE AND MASS--SHRANK TOO FAST, PASSED OUT.

WHERE'S NECROM? DID YOU GET HIM?

THE EXCALIBUR LIGHTHOUSE-- I SEE IT NOW-- HE WENT THERE.

WE'VE GOT TO WARN THEM-- NECROM CAN SUCK THE LIFE OUT OF A PERSON WITH ONE TOUCH.

WE CAN'T, LAD. I TRIED TO CALL EXCALIBUR EARLIER, BUT THEIR RADIOPHONE WAS DEAD...









WELL, YOU
ARE TOO LATE.
I SCOFFED
THE LOT...

...AND NOW I
CRAVE A SLICE
OF HERBIVORE
FLESH!



IT'S
GOING TO
EAT US!



THAT WAS
AN ENERGY
BLAST IN THE
KITCHEN.

I CAN'T CONTACT
MEGGAN. SOME SORT
OF STATIC IS
DISRUPTING MY
TELEPATHY.

WAIT,
KITTY—I WILL
TELEPORT
DOWN...



WHAT
HAPPENED?

A BIG FAT
CHEF WITH
A MEAT
CLEAVER
APPEARED--

HE
ATTACKED
US... I FIRED
IN SELF-
DEFENSE.

MEGGAN?



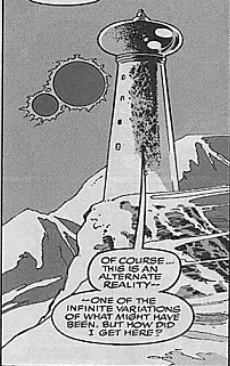
I'M O.KAY.
IT WAS
A FALSE
ALARM.

YEAH, ONE OF
OUR LIGHTHOUSE
APPEARITIONS
SPOOKED CERISE--
SO SHE KILLED
OUR KITCHEN.



BUT WHAT HAPPENED
TO KURT? HE SHOULD
HAVE GOT HERE
FIRST.

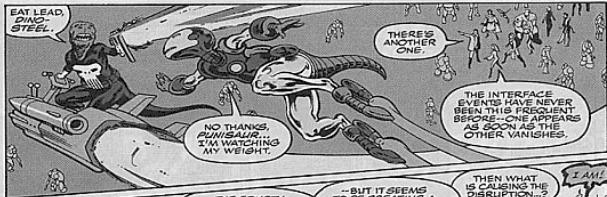
WHERE
IS HE?











OTHERWORLD--ROMA'S
STARLIGHT CITADEL...

M' LADY ROMA...
INTERDIMENSIONAL
TRANSIT AND
COMMUNICATION
IS BREAKING
DOWN.

NUMEROUS
TIME-QUAKES
AND REALITY-
WARPS HAVE BEEN
REPORTED.

I AM AWARE
OF THE SITUATION,
SATURNYNE...

...BUT
ITS CAUSES
ARE BEYOND MY
COMPREHENSION.

FORCES MORE
POWERFUL THAN
I AM AT WORK
HERE.

AN ENERGY VORTEX
ORIGINATING FROM THE
VICINITY OF THE EARTH
616 EXCALIBUR HAS
STARTED TO COLLAPSE
THE MULTIVERSE IN
UPON ITSELF.

ITS PURPOSE IS
AS MYSTERIOUS AS
ITS CREATOR.

DID
MERLYN TELL YOU
NOTHING OF THIS
POWER PLAY?

NO...HE DID
NOT CONFIDE
IN ME.

I TOLD
YOU ALL I
WISHED YOU
TO KNOW.



MERLYN?

YES,
DAUGHTER.

YOUR
LOVING FATHER
HAS RETURNED
FROM THE
DEAD.

THE
FINAL
GAMBIT
BEGINS.

NEXT ISSUE:
THE CLIMACTIC DOUBLE-SIZED
CONCLUSION TO 49 ISSUES
OF DEVILISH MANIPULATION—
WINNER LOSES ALL!

SWORD STOKES

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

TERRY KAVANAGH
EDITOR
MARK POWERS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Sword Strokes,

Re: EXCALIBUR#44, "Witness For The Prosecution"

I would like to open by saying that I am thrilled beyond words at the return of Alan Davis. Nobody draws the team as well as he does. He also recaptures the team's original sense of humor, instead of reducing them to cringing silly jokes.

The issue itself was great. The plot twists are surprising, to say the least. The revolution on Earth 148 is awfully interesting, especially its main players Kylon and Sa'tneon. There seems to be some ominous overtones in this revolution for our merry mutant band.

So until Kurt becomes a college mascot, Make Mine Marvel!

Chris Polemenakos
126 Aster Lane
Lake Jackson, TX 77566

The response to issue #44 was overwhelmingly positive, Chris. Join the other letter writers on this page in raving about Alan Davis and "Witness For The Prosecution."

Dear Mighty Marvel,

I have never written to this book before, but after reading issue #44, I just had to write. The last few issues featuring the return of Alan Davis have been "mentally hip hop and smoothed out on a positive trip!" I just can't get over Davis's pencils — they are perfect for this book and team.

Anyway, on to the issue. I just love all of the different Captain Britains from other earths. The samurai and the futuristic robot are my favorites. But I just wanted to ask a few questions about other things:

1. What is Nightcrawler's connection to Mystique of Freedom Force? Are they related? I heard there was going to be a bookshelf about it, but I guess not.

2. Please have the X-Men (the real ones) meet Excalibur — it's a bit overdue.

3. Is there any chance that the team will be separating and reforming with some new members? I like the current team, but they could use 1 or 2 new people.

By the way, my girlfriend thinks that Lockheed's "cute." I'm sure he gets all the babes!

On a scale of five "X's", this book gets four: "XXXX" Thanks for making my \$1.75 worth it!

Johnathon Briggs
2231 S. Sycamore Ave, Apt. B
Los Angeles, CA 90016

Answers, we have answers! Nightcrawler's connection to Mystique has not yet been revealed. Guess you'll just have to keep reading!

The two teams have been reunited, Johnathon. If only by telephone and video screen. But, in issue #52, look for two of the founding members of the original X-Men to make a visit to the shores of England. And the results of this meeting will change Excalibur forever — and cost them a teammate!

And finally, a resounding yell! If you haven't guessed by now, Excalibur welcomes both Cerise and Kylon as new members! It's the beginning of a great relationship!

Alan,

I just finished EXCALIBUR#44. Does the list of charges against Brian mean that we can look forward to our dear Cap losing the uniform of Captain Marshall 1193 that he adopted "without corps approval" and regaining his rightful uniform (from CAPTAIN BRITAIN MONTHLY and early issues of EXCALIBUR)?

Eagerly awaiting the day when Brian once again looks like a Captain Britain.

Michael D. Holzan-Murphy
2056 Lincoln St.
Eugene, OR 97405

Brian does look like a Captain Britain, Michael — well, at least we think so. And, no, he won't be changing his duds anytime soon.

Dear Sword Strokes,

Congrats on issue #44! I started collecting comics about a month ago, and EXCALIBUR is by far my favorite title! I love the art and the book quality. The character personalities are excellent, and what's a comic book without the humor that's in every EXCALIBUR?

I would like to see more guest appearances. (I loved issue #40 and #41.) I enjoy it when different Marvel titles come together.

EXCALIBUR NOW TWICE A MONTH! Great decision! I was finding it difficult to go 30 days without a new issue!

Alan, and the rest of the EXCALIBUR crew, keep up the great work!

Matt Vaiten
(Address withheld upon request)

Happy to hear you enjoyed the summer bi-weeklies, Matt, but unfortunately they were only for summer. We'll have to see what develops this year...

Dear Sword Strokes,

I LOVE EXCALIBUR! Sorry, I had to get that on paper before I wrote this letter. EXCALIBUR is the only comic I collect. It is the best comic in the Marvel Universe. I love it. I've said that before, haven't I? I guess you get the point.

I am an eleven year old girl whose friends think it's weird that I read comics. I've tried too many times to get them to like comics. Any tips?

I completely love Shadowcat. Don't change her. She is my absolute idol. I bet you had me in mind when you created her. She thinks the way I do. She is very mature, but I can tell somehow she'd rather be at the mall or something.

I'll probably get hate mail for this, but I like Captain Britain as the leader of Excalibur. I still like Nightcrawler but can anybody picture Captain America not being the leader of the Avengers? No. Same deal.

With Alistaire and Rachel — I like it. They make a great couple. Make it more serious.

I have two questions:

1. Does Alan Davis have an autographed picture I could have? That would make me the happiest person on Earth.

2. When is Excalibur going to have the reunion? Got that? Not any takes, the REAL X-Men.

So until Kitty Pryde changes her name to Kitty Cryde, Make Mine Marvel!

Eden Miller
4710 Tameo Rd.
Glan Allen, VA 23060

We've tried to get some of our friends who don't read comics interested in them, too, Eden! Yes, it is hard. The best advice we can offer is to try to show your friends particular titles, and even particular issues, that you think would interest them. And remember — to each his or her own!

If you'd like to get in touch with Alan Davis, or any Marvel artist or writer, write to him or her in care of Marvel Comics, address atop this page. We'll forward all mail! Be sure to be specific in your letter, and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Dear Sword Strokes,

Issue #44, bottom of page 18, I was in stitches. Technet watching an educational television show for kids! The expression on their faces — it was just too funny.

Glad to see Alan Davis back. Phoenix, my favorite character, was pretty tough in that robbery scene.

Thanks for 4 1/2 great years.

Morgan Henderson
302 1/2 W. Lemon St.
Lancaster, PA 17603



NEXT ISSUE: The giant-sized conclusion to our epic storyline — Phoenix vs. the anti-Phoenix!